

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) A method for determining rating data for services in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

accessing data associated with a service or a subscriber;
sending a rating request, including said accessed data, to a distributed rating means for distributed rating based on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber;
receiving resulting rating data from said distributed rating means; and
determining a rating value for charging said subscriber based on said received rating data.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said distributed rating means is operated by a service provider, content provider, or value added service provider.

23. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said rating request is sent from central rating means operated by a network operator.

24. (New) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of determining pre-rating data before the step of sending said rating request.

25. (New) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of determining final-rating data before the step of charging said account.

26. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said rating value is determined based on said pre-rating data, distributed rating data from said distributed rating means, and final-rating data.

27. (New) A method for determining rating data for services in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

receiving data associated with a service or subscriber from central rating means;
and

accessing and determining rating data for said service or subscriber based on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber and on said received data for transmission to said central rating means.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said distributed rating data is accessed and determined by distributed rating means.

29. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein said distributed rating means is operated by a service provider, content provider, or value added service provider.

30. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said central rating means is operated by a network operator.

31. (New) A distributed rating system for determining rating data for pre-paid services in a communications network, comprising:

central rating means including a computer apparatus adapted to:

access service data associated with a service or subscriber;

send a rating request, including said accessed data, to a distributed rating means for distributed rating based on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber;

receive resulting rating data from said distributed rating means; and

determine a rating value for charging a pre-paid account of said subscriber based on said received rating data.

32. (New) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said system is a mobile communications system.

33. (New) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said system is an IN/CAMEL system.

34. (New) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said service is a prepaid service.

35. (New) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said service is an electronic commerce/payment service.

36. (New) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said resulting rating data is cost per time unit or data volume, per event, per content, a set of tariff data including cost, duration/volume, time/volume interval, or a specific scaling factor.

37. (New) A distributed rating system for determining rating data for pre-paid services in a communications network, comprising:

distributed rating means including a computer apparatus adapted to:

receive data associated with a service or subscriber from central rating means; and

access and determining rating data for said service or subscriber based on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber and on said received service data for transmission to said central rating means.